

## **5.1 Law Enforcement Code of Ethics**

It is the policy of the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office that all sworn members abide by the following Code of Ethics:

### **5.1.1 The Code**

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all, and will behave in a manner which does not bring discredit to me or my agency. I will maintain calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; practice self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. I will be honest in thought and deed in both my personal and professional life, and I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my agency. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or whatever is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret, unless revelation is necessary to the performance of my sworn duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. Without compromise and with relentless prosecution, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of law enforcement service. I will never engage in acts of bribery or accept any gratuities, nor will I condone such acts by other law enforcement officers.

I will cooperate with my coworkers, my superiors, and all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of our common goal -- justice.

I recognize that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance, and I will take every opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to the uncompromising pursuit of excellence in my chosen profession.